

Abstract of the Invention

Heat-killed, terminally sterilized saline suspensions of *Propionibacterium acnes*, *Propionibacterium avidum*, *Propionibacterium lymphophilum*, *Propionibacterium granulosum*, *Corynebacterium parvum*, and *Arachnia propionica* are effective in treating viral infections of the respiratory tract in humans, and to induce the regression of dermal tumors and warts in humans. The potency of a saline suspension of heat-killed, terminally sterilized saline suspension of *Propionibacterium acnes* (*P. acnes*) was demonstrated through a laboratory animal challenge model. The *P. acnes* product is administered orally for the purpose of preventing or treating viral infections of the respiratory tract in man. The *P. acnes* preparation is intralesionally administered into dermal tumors, warts such as plantar warts, or other warts in people caused by the human papilloma virus, to cause regression of such dermal tumors and warts. The subcutaneous route of administration of the *P. acnes* product causes a systemic reaction that causes long-term warts to completely regress. Anesthetics such as Lidocaine may be added to the *P. acnes* product to prevent pain upon injection of this immune modulating preparation, while retaining the potency of the *P. acnes* product. Dose ranges have been established for the oral administration of the *P. acnes* product to treat viral infections, and for the subcutaneous and intralesional administration of the *P. acnes* product to treat dermal tumors and warts.